10/14/71

Hon. Charles McC. Mathias,
U.S.Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mac,

You were so pressed for time today that I could hardly prepare you to discuss the Baltimore business with Beall, and in the few moments we had for the Teddy matter, which is much more than that, I answered too abruptly when you said you would speak to him. My immediate "No!" will, I believe, be wrong if Sid can't accomplish the purpose through whichever of Teddy's people he will approach.

For one thing, I should have made it clear that were mine selfish motives, I could wish for nothing more than the stink that would ensue. I have completed the book, I think without doubt the only book, that has the entire story, including what the pictures and X-rays do and do not show and what happened to them and other evidence. I had a smattering of this to show you. It is some of what the Commission never had. I don't have to tell you that any scandal of any kind makes this a hot literary property. It would help me personally, but not that which I have sought, which is the establishment and recognition of truth and the recapture of the national honor.

And proper allocation of responsibility.

I also fear that Teddy's people may well have been poisoned about me. The effort has been extensive. And I am confident that not one of them knows or has had the time to learn anything for himself. All are and I think inevitably must be the creatures of any sources they may have consulted.

So, if Sid fails, I will ask that you do speak to Teddy, so that he will know personally of the possibilities and will, personally, make the necessary decisions. For myself I ask no more than the preservation of my confidence, non-disclosure of anything they want to see that I show, anything they may be willing to hear that I may say. I can show them more than enough, as I have been telling you for some years.

The care with which responsibility for suppressions has been fixed upon the Kennedy family is astounding. It was dinned into Warren when it was false. It is inherent in the contract with GSA, and is explicit in those provisions relating to the film. Nobody on whom they depended had the slightest idea of what was up, what he became party to, most of all the one who now holds their honor and quite possibly Teddy's future in his hand, Burke Marshall.

My reason for the hasty "No!" on Teddy is because I do believe his life is, has been and under most conditions, will continue to be in danger. I am without doubt that those responsible for the President's assassination are unknown. If they remain alive, they cannot survive any Kennedy President, nor can they survive any Kennedy genuine interest in the case. Therefore, - believe that Teddy must never be in the position where he seems to have any interest in pursuing it. This does not, however, mean that he should be in ignorance of the fact established to date or that he should allow his future to be vested in the uninformed who in most cases have a conflict with their pasts.

This newly-completed book is titled POST MORTEM. The first part was written and retyped by August 1967. The last part has a rather explicit if non-sycophantic defense of the family in a chapter titled "Hades-Not Camelot". It doesn't begin to spell out or even indicate what I have on this aspect, but I think it is more than adequate. After the lapse of five years, I am surprised at how well I understood this Hoover-Commission staff ploy. I knew I was going into this on talk shows, but I didn't realize how much of it I had in the first part of the book.

My apprehensions are not recent. It is the specific incident that causes me immediate concern. I have inhibited myself to protect Teddy, who can't possibly be aware of it, in litigation I filed and in cases I have not filed because of possible similar hurt. My files on them are complete, ready for examination, and constitute the meeting of all the prerequisites to filing. Some of these are suits that can attract attention. Again he can have someone he trusts see if he'd care to. And I spelled it out with some care in CA 2569-70 in federal district court in Washington.

You are a member of Judiciary. I do think, as I hope, that you may yet find the time to inform yourself adequately. If you have to know in a hurry, it may be too late. After all your experience, I am confident it will shock you. Yet I think you will find it fascinating.

Thanks for finding the time you could on so busy a day.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg